cost wise, would therefore not be viable propositions.

Rath Yatras And Marches

364. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of certain elements to organise Rath Yatras and marches by Muslims in November, 1987 to rekindle communal passions on the controversial Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop these marches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As the law and order is the responsibility of the respective State Governments, they would no doubt take appropriate action as and when the need arises.

Repealing of Section 44BB of the Income Tax Act

365. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incorporation of Section 44BB in the Income Tax Act during the last Budget Session has helped Indian companies engaged in providing services to the 'oil sector' and other fields; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some vested interests are trying to have this useful Section repealed not only in the case of companies supplying equipment but also in the case of companies supplying services; and if so, what is Government's stand in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Section 44BB of the Income-tax Act will enable the companies providing services and facilities for prospecting, exploration and exploitation of mineral oil to ascertain their income-tax liability in respect of this activity with precision. To that extent, simplification of the law helps the Indian tax-payers.

(b) A representation has been received on behalf of certain companies engaged in providing services in connection with or supplying plant and machinery on hire in prospecting for or extraction or production of mineral oil. The representation is under consideration.

Indo-Japan Trade

366. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the balance of trade between India and Japan has constantly been adverse against India for the last five years; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the present trade gap with Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts to improve the present trade gap with Japan include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, Buyers-Sellers Meet, exchange of delegations and product development with a view to diversify Indian exports to value added items.